



What is it?

Points To Remember About Rosacea

- Rosacea causes red, irritated skin and pimples.
- Rosacea can also make your skin thicker and cause eye problems.
- There is no cure for rosacea, but some treatments can make your skin look and feel better.
- Doctors don't know what causes rosacea, but it may run in families.

Rosacea (ro-ZAY-she-ah) is a long-term disease that causes reddened skin and pimples, usually on the face. It can also make skin thicker and cause eye problems.

Who gets it?

Anyone can get rosacea, but it is more common among these groups:

- Adults ages 30 to 60.
- Women, especially during menopause.
- People with fair skin. Lighter skin also makes the disease more apparent.

What are the symptoms?

Rosacea usually causes your face to become red, or flushed. It may look like:

- Redness at the center of your face, including your forehead, nose, cheeks and chin.
- Skin that feels burning, swollen or warm.

- Small red blood vessels that become visible under your skin.
- Bumpy skin or pimples.

You might also have these other symptoms of rosacea:

- A swollen, bumpy nose. (This usually happens to men.)
- Thicker skin on your face, especially if you have an advanced case of the disease.

Many people who have rosacea get eye problems. These may include:

- Eyes becoming red, dry, itchy, burning or watery. You might feel like you have sand in your eye.
- Eyelids becoming inflamed and swollen.
- Eyes becoming sensitive to light.
- Blurred vision, or some other kind of vision problem.

What causes it?

Doctors don't know what causes rosacea, but your family history or genes might make you more likely to get the disease.

If you blush a lot, you may also be more likely to get rosacea. Some researchers think rosacea happens when blood vessels expand too easily, causing you to blush a lot.

How is it treated?

There is no cure for rosacea, but treatment can help make your skin look and feel better. Your doctor may suggest antibiotic medicines that you apply directly on your skin or take in a pill. It may take several weeks or months for your skin to start looking better.

Other skin treatments may include:

- Gels to help your skin look less red.
- Electrosurgery or laser surgery to reduce the appearance of small red lines on your skin.
- If your nose is bumpy and swollen, you may be able to have some extra skin tissue taken off to make it smaller.

Treatments for eye problems may include:

- Medicines, such as steroid eye drops.
- Cleaning your eyelids to reduce infections. Your doctor may recommend scrubbing your eyelids gently with watered-down baby shampoo or an eyelid cleaner and then applying a warm (but not hot) compress a few times a day.

Whatever you do, be sure to talk about treatments and possible side effects with your doctor

first.

Who treats it?

Several types of health care professionals may treat you, including dermatologists, who treat skin problems.

Living With It

You can take an active part in treating your rosacea. Besides going to your doctor regularly, you can also try these things to reduce your symptoms:

- Keep a written record of what seems to make your rosacea worse. This may help you figure out what irritates your skin.
- Use a sunscreen every day. Get one with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher that protects against UVA and UVB rays (two kinds of ultraviolet rays that can damage your skin).
- Use a mild lubricant on your face if it helps, but try to avoid products that irritate your skin.
- You might try a green-tinted makeup to make your skin look less red.
- Talk to your doctor if you feel sad or have other signs of depression. Some people with rosacea feel bad because of the way their skin looks.

Some things can make your rosacea become worse, or flare. What causes a flare in one person might not cause a flare in another person. Although these factors have not been well-researched, some people say these things make their rosacea worse:

- Heat, including hot baths.
- Exercise.
- Sunlight.
- Wind.
- Very cold temperatures.
- Hot or spicy foods and drinks.
- Alcohol.
- Menopause.
- Emotional stress.
- Long-term use of steroids on the skin.
- Bacteria.

Other Medical Problems

In addition to red, irritated skin, rosacea can cause eye problems.

For More Info

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Toll free: 888-INFO-FDA (888-463-6332)

Website: <https://www.fda.gov>

[Drugs@FDA](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf) at <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf> [Drugs@FDA](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf) is a searchable catalog of FDA-approved drug products.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics

Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs>

American Academy of Dermatology

Website: <https://www.aad.org>

National Rosacea Society

Website: <https://www.rosacea.org>

If you need more information about available resources in your language or other languages, please visit our webpages below or contact the NIAMS Information Clearinghouse at NIAMSInfo@mail.nih.gov.

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